

Message Text

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OMB-01 T-03 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /124 W
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R 160940 Z MAR 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 206

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 0121

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, LE

SUBJECT: IRAQ IMPOSES BAN ON LEBANESE PRODUCTS

1. SUMMARY: IRAQI BAN ON IMPORTS AND PERHAPS TRANSIT TRADE FROM LEBANON HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY EDITORIAL ATTACKS ON GOL' S BEHAVIOR TOWARD IRAQ DURING AND AFTER NEGOTIATIONS WITH IPC. GOI ALSO ADVERTISING ITS SYMPATHY FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SUPPORT OF SOUTH LEBANON. END SUMMARY.

2. MINISTRY OF ECONOMY ON MARCH 12 BANNED IMPORT OF UNNECESSARY FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AND CONSUMER GOODS FROM LEBANON. MINISTRY SAID BAN RESULTED FROM NEED TO PROTECT NATIONAL PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURE AND WAS IN COMPLIANCE WITH DEVELOPMENT PLAN. FOREIGN GOODS SHIPPED THROUGH LEBANON ALSO BANNED, BUT EXCEPTIONS POSSIBLE WITH SPECIAL APPROVAL OF MINISTRY. APPARENTLY BAN RESULTED IN STOPPING EVEN GOODS IN TRANSIT AND ON MARCH 15 SPECIAL COMMITTEE WAS SET UP IN MINISTRY OF ECONOMY TO EXAMINE TRANSIT TRADE AND REORGANIZE IT. ON MARCH 14 LEBANESE CHARGE MET, AT HIS REQUEST WITH MINISTER ECONOMY AL- AZZAWI.

3. EDITORIAL IN PARTY PAPER ATH- THAWRA OF MARCH 16 REVEALED WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE BEHIND SUDDEN MEASURES AGAINST LEBANON. GIST OF EDITORIAL FOLLOWS: IRAQ HAD ALWAYS BEEN GENEROUS TOWARD LEBANON
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THROUGH SIZEABLE IMPORTS, IRAQI TOURISTS, AND TRANSIT TRADE. YET GOL DID NOT TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT IN IPC MATTER. INSTEAD GOL DID BIDDING OF MONOPOLISTIC COMPANIES AND IMPERIALISTS WHICH RESULTED IN GREAT HARM TO IRAQ' S VITAL INTERESTS. MOREOVER, ITS INSOLENT PRIME MINISTER SAEB SALAM ISSUED LIES ABOUT IRAQ. GOL PRETENDED TO SUPPORT NATIONALIZATION BUT MANUVERED TO STOP PUMPING OF OIL FOR OVER NINE MONTHS. DURING NEGOTIATIONS IRAQ PRESSURED IPC TO SELL PIPELINE TO GOL. COMPANIES AGREED PROVIDED GOL OFFICIALLY EXPRESSED SUCH A DESIRE. WHEN WE APPROACHED GOL IT REFUSED AND THUS WE WERE COMPELLED TO BUY PIPELINE. THEN GOL STARTED CLAIMING ITS RIGHT TO PURCHASE AND ONLY THEN REMEMBERED CLAUSE WHEREBY IT CAN CLAIM THIS. GOL PREFERRED INTERESTS OF FOREIGN MONOPOLISTIC COMPANIES TO INTEREST OF BROTHERLY IRAQ, AND ACTED IN WAY TO FULFILL SAUDI ARABIA' S INSTRUCTIONS. DURING THIS PERIOD AND BECAUSE OF THE GOL' S ACTION, IRAQ LOST 159.8 MILLION DOLLARS, LEBANON LOST 9 MILLION DOLLARS, AND SYRIA LOST 30 MILLION DOLLARS.

4. MEANWHILE, DELEGATION HEADED BY KHALIL BARAKAT REPRESENTING NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SUPPORT OF SOUTH LEBANON ARRIVED MARCH 12 AT INVITATION OF BAATH NATIONAL LEADERSHIP. IT RECEIVED RED CARPET TREATMENT AND VISITED PARTY OFFICIALS AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. DEL HELD PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 15 IN WHICH BARAKAT THANKED GOI FOR RECEPTION, ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR ESTABLISHING COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH LEBANON IN IRAQ, SAID ISRAELIS TREATED LEBANESE AIR SPACE AS PLACE FOR PICNICS, AND CITED ISRAELI INCURSIONS OF UP TO 7 KILOMETERS WITHOUT ANY SIGN OF LEBANESE RESISTANCE.
LOWRIE

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